

New Species of African Lasiocampidae and Striphnopterygidae from English Collections.

Described by

CHR. AURIVILLIUS.

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By the kind mediation of Sir G. F. HAMPSON I have received three collections of rare or new African Bombycids, one from the British Museum, one from the Tring Museum and a third from the Hope Museum in Oxford. There were many rare or little known species in these collections e. g. male and female of *Gonometa brotoessa* HOLL. and the hitherto unknown male of *Gonometa Sjöstedti* AUR. The new forms are described in this paper. A few specimens of probably undescribed species were not in a condition to be described. I am very obliged to Sir G. F. HAMPSON, the Right Honourable Lord ROTHSCHILD and Professor E. B. POULTON of the Hope Department for the loan of the specimens.

Lasiocampidae.

Chionopsyche grisea n. sp. — Nearly allied to *Ch. montana*; body and wings pale grey; fore wing above with a transverse irregularly curved row of small black dots, which, however, are wanting in the areas 1b and 2. Expanse 38 mm.

Brit. East-Africa: Juba River; C. LE CHEVALLIER. — Brit. Museum.

Legs as in *montana* white and orange, spotted with black. Palpi at greater part orange yellow.

Beralade (Chilena) punctulata n. sp. — ♂. Head, thorax and legs grey unicolorous; palpi brownish; antennae white with yellowish branches; abdomen whitish; fore wing above whitish, sprinkled with brownish scales; a white spot at end of cell and a straight series of black subterminal dots on the veins 2—6; hind wing above white without markings; fore wing below greyish with traces of 2 or 3 longitudinal darker stripes (in the areas 5, 8 and 9); hind wing below whitish. Expanse 28 mm.

North Nigeria: Minna; October; SCOTT MACFIE. — British Museum.

Allied to *prompta* WALK., but easily distinguished by the colour and by the subterminal line being dissolved in dots or small streaks on the veins.

Leipoxais dives n. sp. — ♂. Both wings nearly of the same form as in *L. siccifolia*; fore wing above paler than the hind wing. Fore wing above yellowish grey, more yellowish in the discal region; transverse lines blackish, double, very distinct, strongly angulate or denticulate; subbasal lines filled up with yellowish, discal dot black; discal lines distinctly angled at vein 8; a submarginal irregular series of dark spots. Hind wing above reddish brown, darker at apex, a fine blackish terminal line. Fore wing below yellowish, darker at apex and termen, markings obsolete; hind wing below pale yellowish grey with two brown discal lines at costa and some brown cloudings; costa nearly straight to apex of vein 8; termen between vein 8 and 5 also straight and parallel to the inner margin. Expanse 40 mm.

The ♀ is larger and more uniformly yellowish brown than the male; the transverse lines of fore wing are simple or nearly so and hardly denticulate; the submarginal dots are united to a continuous line edged distally broadly with yellowish; hind wing above with two rather distinct brown bands; under side darker than in the male, yellowish brown. Expanse 68 mm.

S. Nigeria: Ilesha and Gold Coast: Bibianaha.

Leipoxais Humfreyi n. sp. — ♂. Fawn-colour; abdomen above and wings beneath at base and inner margin paler; primaries above with obsolete double subbasal and discal

transverse lines; subbasal lines slightly curved, discal lines waved but not denticulate; a small *black* dot at end of cell; a submarginal series of black dots in 1b—8 incurved in 4 and 5; secondaries above without markings. Wings below with 2 waved obsolete brown discal lines and a submarginal series of black dots, dusted with greyish scales at apex and along termen. Expanse 42 mm.

♀. Larger and paler than the ♂; submarginal black dots larger and distinct also on the upper side of the hind wing. Expanse 60 mm.

S. Nigeria: Ilesha; L. E. H. HUMFREY. Gold Coast: Bibianaha; H. G. F. SPURRELL. — British Museum.

Allied to *L. marginepunctata* HOLL. but easily distinguished by the small black dot at the end of the cell of primaries.

Philoterma grisea n. sp. — ♂. Body and wings dark grey, wings beneath yellowish grey; fore wing above: subbasal transverse line slightly curved, blackish, basad convex and indistinctly edged with pale grey; discal line nearly straight, incurved near costa at vein 9, blackish, rather broadly edged externally with pale grey; a white dot at apex of cell; transverse lines nearly meeting at inner margin; an irregular submarginal series of obsolete blackish streaks or dots followed proximally by grey dashes. Hind wing above with a curved obscure median line. Both wings beneath with a dark dentate discal line, which on the hind wing is strongly curved, reaching the inner margin near base, traces of sub-terminal dark spots. Expanse 66 mm.

German East-Africa: Kilimandjaro. — Collectio ROTH-SCHILD.

Easily known by the ground colour and the strongly curved discal line on the under side of hind wing. In markings of upperside nearly agreeing with *Ph. rosae*.

Odontogama nov. gen.

Agrees in venation and other characters completely with *Taragama* and differs only by the termen of both wings being dentate and the termen of fore wing being emarginate between vein 2 and 5. The genus is also nearly allied to *Ocinaropsis*, which, however, differs by hairy eyes.

Odontogama nigricans n. sp. — ♂. Blackish grey; fore wing with two very curved black lines, one from the middle of the base along vein 2 to the middle and thence curved against the costa, which it nearly reaches somewhat beyond middle; the other line begins at the middle of hind margin, approaches very near the first line between the veins 2—6 and is then excurved and reaches the termen near apex; a few whitish subterminal dots in the areas 3—7; the cell and the inner margin suffused with black; hind wing blackish with traces of two black postmedian fasciae at inner margin. Under side sooty black. Expanse 42 mm.

The ♀ is larger, somewhat paler with the black lines of fore wing more widely separated. Patagia blackish; thorax dark grey. Expanse 66—70 mm.

Sesse Islands in Victoria Nyanza: Bugalla; G. D. H. CARPENTER. — Hope Collection. Gold Coast: Bibianaha; H. G. F. SPURRELL. — British Museum.

Taragama sodalium n. sp. — ♀. Olivaceous grey; palpi and apical half of the patagiae orange; primaries above olivaceous, much paler at termen, yellowish orange at base and at middle, before the middle a transverse whitish bar between the inner margin and the cell, another whitish transverse mark behind the cell between the costa and vein 5; a broad whitish postdiscal very irregular band between the costa about 3 mm. from the apex and the middle of the hind margin, this band strongly incurved in 5 and 2; the ground colour much paler between the band and the termen. Secondaries white with a small blackish mark at termen in 1 c. Wings below yellowish white with a broad darkish discal band from the costa of the primaries to vein 5 of secondaries edged distally with whitish and obsolete at inner margin of primaries. Expanse 48 mm.

British East-Africa: Nakuru; H. A. BODEKER, — British Museum.

Somewhat allied to *T. acaciae* KLUG.

Taragama vesta DRUCE. — The hitherto unknown ♂ of this species differs so completely from the ♀, that no one would be able to suppose their identity without breeding. Mr G. D. H. CARPENTER has bred both sexes at Bugalla on the Sesse Islands in Victoria Nyanza.

♂. Palpi, antennae, patagiae, breast, legs and abdomen below deep black; joints 2—5 of all the tarsi grey-white; head and thorax above pale greyish brown; abdomen above blackish at the sides greyish brown. Wings subdiaphanous sooty black; fore wing with a black streak at end of cell, some whitish dots at base, at costa, near termen and at inner margin; an obsolete, waved rufous subterminal line; hind wing greyish at base and broadly whitish at inner margin to near tornus; termen obtusely dentate between tornus and vein 2. Wings below with the veins pale at termen. Expanse 57 mm.

Nigeria to Uganda. — Hope Collection, Oxford.

Laeliopsis erythrura n. sp. — ♂. Ochreous yellow; sides of the breast, base of wings on upper side, metathorax and anal tuft (at last beneath) clothed with long red or reddish hairs; fore wing above with a small dot of white and blackish scales at end of cell and a subterminal series of similar dots; hind wing with dark subterminal dots as in *punctigera*. Expanse 33 mm.

Belgian Congo. — British Museum.

Nearly allied to *L. punctigera*; wings somewhat shorter and broader and the fore wing more obtusely rounded at apex.

Pachymeta guttata n. sp. — ♂. Head, thorax and fore wing above orange or golden yellow; abdomen, wings below and hind wing above pale reddish fawn-colour without markings; fore wing above with two antemedian and two discal strongly waved transverse brown lines, the discal lines at vein 6 angled basad to costa; a very large (3—4 mm in diameter) silvery spot edged with brown at end of cell; terminal part of wing paler more reddish, with a strongly angulated and waved subterminal line from inner margin to near apex. Expanse 63 mm.

Gold Coast between the Coast and Kumasi; C. H. McDOWALL. — British Museum.

Pachymeta capreolus n. sp. — ♂. Head, thorax and fore wing on both sides greyish fawn-colour; fore wing above with a very obsolete dark subbasal line and an oblique nearly

straight blackish discal line from the middle of inner margin to costa about 7 mm. from apex; hind wing pale yellowish without markings, tinged with reddish at anal angle; abdomen pale as hind wing. Expanse 55 mm.

The ♀ is larger and a little darker; hind wing on both sides and abdomen being pale fawn colour; fore wing in the cell, at inner margin and at termen in 2 and 3 with obsolete yellowish patches. Expanse 74 mm.

Nyassa Land: Mlanje; S. A. NEAVE. — British Museum.

Pachymeta (Pachymetana) Lamborni n. sp. — ♂. Frons brownish; head, thorax, abdomen and wings dark sooty blackish brown; fore wing long and narrow; transverse lines very obsolete; a minute whitish dot or streak at end of cell, disc suffused with some grey scales in 4 and 5, an obsolete subterminal series of greyish streak between vein 1—8, tornus completely rounded. Hind wing nearly triangular, costa arched at base, apex rather acute; termen nearly straight distinctly waved; tornus angled; no markings. Under side of both wings paler without markings, clothed with grey hairs at inner margin of hind wing. Expanse 54 mm.

♀ much larger with the apex of fore wing acute and produced. Hind wing white with broad blackish terminal border broadest at the apex and produced to middle of costa; termen convex and even. Expanse 95 mm.

Lagos District: Oni; W. A. LAMBORNE. — Hope Collection, Oxford.

Agrees in structural characters with *Pachymetana custodita* STRAND and differs from typical *Pachymeta* by vein 8 of fore wing being emitted from the stalk of 6 and 7.

Pachymeta(?) Neavei n. sp. — ♂. Head, thorax and fore wing above very dark violet brown, more or less suffused with rufous red scales; breast, abdomen, hind wing above and both wings below pale reddish yellow; legs reddish brown; fore wing above at base to middle of inner margin and at costa behind the cell to near apex broadly irrorated with reddish; transverse lines dark and rather obsolete, a large silvery spot at end of cell; subterminal line obsolete and interrupted; the areas 1 b—5 suffused near termen with glossy grey scales; costa of hind wing to vein 7 dark brown; fore

wing below with several patches of brownish scales. Expanse 40 mm.

The female is larger with more elongate and more acuminate fore wings and has only a dark spot at end of the cell of fore wing; the ground colour is somewhat paler and the veins of the under side of fore wing distinctly reddish in terminal part. Expanse 54 mm.

Nyassaland: Mlanje, June; S. A. NEAVE. — British Museum.

Agrees with *P. Clarki* in having vein 8 of fore wing from beyond the cell.

Gonometa imperialis n. sp. — ♀. Upper side: ground colour ochreous-yellow; head and thorax tinged with violaceous brown; hind wing unicolorous; fore wing with the ground colour somewhat darker, tinged with violaceous-brown at base and with 5 broad waved transverse bands of the same colour, two across the cell and three behind the cell, the fifth nearly straight irregular broader at costa, obsolete at inner margin and in area 5; termen more or less suffused with violaceous brown between the veins. Under side: both wings ochreous yellow, tinged with violaceous near apex and at termen; abdomen broadly suffused with violaceous. Veins 4 and 5 of hind wing on a rather long stalk. Expanse 170 mm.

Gold Coast: Gambaga. — Dr. BURY. — Collection of the R. Hon. W. ROTHSCHILD.

Nearly allied to *G. Sjöstedi* AURIV. but still larger and easily distinguished by the dark transverse stripes of the fore wing. The ground colour of the hind wing nearly quite the same as in *G. Sjöstedi*.

Opisthodontia superba n. sp. — ♀. Palpi and sides of head dark hoary grey; forehead and tegulae violet grey; patagia and wings golden orange, paler in the middle of fore wing, abdomen and inner margin of hind wing whitish; abdomen below pale reddish brown; fore wing above with a strongly curved subbasal transverse, nearly even line, which begins at costa 5 mm. from base and ends at middle of inner margin; a nearly straight brown line from costa behind middle to vein 6, followed in right angle by a series of 6 fine internervular slightly curved streaks from vein 6 to inner margin

a little behind middle; a brown subterminal line from apex to vein 6; the space between the transverse lines and the apex to vein 6 tinged with violet; a small black dot at end of cell in both wings. Hind wing: costa and termen to vein 6 strongly and evenly rounded; termen between vein 6 and 2 obtusely dentate; a fine brown denticulate discal line and a broad violet brown terminal band between vein 2 and 6, tapering to a point at vein 6; under side paler dusted with brown at costa. Expanse 59 mm.

Nyassaland: Mlanje; May 18th; S. A. NEAVE. — Brit. Museum.

Stenophatna libera n. sp. — ♂. Head, thorax, legs and under side of abdomen rufous-fawn-colour; abdomen above greyish; fore wing elongate with very convex evenly curved termen and straight, very short (8 mm.) hind margin, fawn coloured, greyish along the costa and with a broad curved greyish submarginal band; a small dot at the extremity of the cell and two indistinct, angulated lines one before, the other at the middle blackish. Hind wing rufous, broadly greyish along the termen. Hind wing elongated and produced at tornus, costa very convex forming with the termen a nearly even curve. Wings below dark rufous yellowish at inner margin and dark greyish at apex of fore wing and at termen of hind wing. Expanse 41 mm.

West-Africa. — British Museum.

Although this species in some essential points of venation differs from the typical specimen, I prefer to modify the generic characters and retain both species in the same genus. In the present species the vein 4 of fore wing comes from well before the angle of the cell and 5 alone from angle, vein 8 is given off behind the cell from the stalk of 6 and 7 and the areole of the hind wing is rounded at apex and emits 4 stout long veins to the costa, all free. As in *S. Marshalli* the areole is long and narrow, much smaller than the cell but completely separated from vein 7, which is given off nearly in the middle between vein 6 and the areole.

Striphnopterygidæ.

Drepanojana apicalis n. sp. — ♂. Upper side: both wings uniformly dark umbra-brown; fore wings at the costa near apex in the areas 7 and 8 with a creamy spot and with a similar small submarginal dot in 6; ciliae yellowish speckled with brown. Under side: as above but the ground colour more reddish brown. Body above dark reddish brown, below yellowish; antennae dark grey, bipectinate. Expanse 40 mm.

Gold Coast: Bibianaha, 70 miles N. W. of Dimkwa; 700 ft; Nov. 27. 1910. — H. G. F. SPURRELL. — British Museum.

Agrees in venation and other structural characters completely with *Drepanojana fasciata* and belongs undoubtedly to that genus. The outer margin is, however, completely straight and not falcate as in the female of *fasciata*. The form of the fore wing may be different according to the sex.

Phiala incurva n. sp. — ♂. Wings above white; fore-wing dusted with a few black scales in the cell, a little behind the middle with a continuous rather thick black fascia, which is slightly but distinctly convex basad; the fascia begins at inner margin about 8 mm. from the base and ends quite near costa a little before the apex; hind wing with a *straight*, postmedian fascia of black scales, more developed at the veins, from inner margin to costa about 5 mm. from the apex. Wings below pale yellow without markings. Antennae, forehead, breast, legs and abdomen brownish yellow; tarsi speckled with black. The female only differs by both wings, but especially the fore wing, being above densely speckled with black scales and the ground colour being more greyish. Expanse 38—40 mm.

German East Africa: Usanga District, 3,500—4,500 ft; November and December 1910. — S. A. NEAVE.

Easily distinguished from allied forms by the incurved fascia of the fore wing and the straight fascia of the hind wing.

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